



Western Communications, Inc.

3106 S. HIGHWAY 79 • RAPID CITY, SD 57701 • PHONE 605-342-7885

DOCKET FILE COPY



May 28, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, FCC
Room 222
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: LMCC Petition for Rulemaking (RM-9267)

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing this letter as a public comment in support of the Petition for Rule Making to allocate radio spectrum for private and shared-private wireless licensees, that was filed by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC). It is my understanding that in 1997, Congress instructed the FCC to consider the need to allocate additional spectrum for use by private wireless licensees. In my experience, there is a tremendous need for additional spectrum for private wireless licensees and I sincerely hope that the FCC will recognize this requirement for private wireless spectrum and allocate additional spectrum for this use.

My name is Michael Lees and I am the President of Western Communications, Inc., a two-way radio sales and service company located in Rapid City, South Dakota. Western Communications, Inc. has been in the "wireless" business since 1960 and we employ 15 to 20 employees. Western Communications also provides two-way radio "wireless" services to several thousand customers throughout Western South Dakota, Northwestern Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming. We have assisted most of these customers in obtaining FCC private Radio Station Licenses and we have been granted a number of two-way radio licenses for our business use. Because of our experience in the area, Western Communications has become the focal point of most of our customer's questions regarding FCC license applications, renewals or other FCC issues. Because of our long experience and variety of FCC issues we have handled over the years, we are painfully aware of the need for additional spectrum for private wireless licenses.

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Private two-way radio licenses are an economic requirement for my business and those two-way radio customers that we care for. In Western South Dakota, “Wireless” or two-way radio communications, are used for two primary purposes;

1. The coordination and control of people, and
2. To provide safety and emergency resources to the radio users and the general public who interact with the two-way radio users.

Many of the businesses in our area simply could not stay in business without the shared-private two-way radio licenses and equipment. Western Communications, Inc. for example covers over 40,000 square miles in providing services to our customers. If we did not have two-way radio contact to provide feedback and support to our field personnel, we simply could not be productive enough to be able to stay in business. I think it is also important to understand that we particularly rely on the ability of the two-way radio to cover wide geographic areas and allow us to talk to all of our people at once. Even when we are working on the same project, we may have teams of people who are miles apart. When some situation arises that forces a change in plans, we can talk to all parties at once, access their individual circumstances, and then come up with a plan for all the teams involved in the project. If our managers had to rely on a cellular type service, they would have to contact each individual one at a time, through a commercial service, and it would take us hours to accomplish what we can now do in minutes. Without the private and shared-private radio licenses, many small businesses cannot productively cover the wide rural areas with the small number of staff.

I am particularly concerned with the impact of the FCC license policy on my part of rural America. I have watched for many years with dismay and disappointment as the FCC moved away from the protection of private and shared-private radio licenses toward the sale of this spectrum to the highest bidder. In many cases, the FCC has abandoned their duty as a steward of a unique *PUBLIC* natural resource, and adopted the role of a pimp, selling this spectrum to the highest bidder while rationalizing their action by saying that whoever pays the most, will make the best use of this public resource. After the auction is over, the FCC gets the economic and political benefit of the revenues and the public, specifically the rural public, gets very little, if any, benefit from this transaction. This attitude was clearly displayed in the February 23, 1998 *RCR* article written by Reed Hundt in which he encourages someone to develop the “zeal” to commercialize the vast stretches of “so-called private spectrum”. Mr. Hundt then goes on to claim that this strategy will result in



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great economic benefits and “ will make our next generation rich.” Mr. Hundt, and many at the FCC obviously do not understand the economic reality in the rural areas. The entire state of South Dakota has only about 750,000 residents. We cannot depend upon the vast buildout of some new wireless system to provide the necessary wireless communications for our area, because the commercial wireless companies will not invest the millions of dollars necessary to build out a state wide system because the return on investment would be too low. If you closely examine South Dakota, you will find that there are still vast areas where there is no cellular service because of the low population density. If cellular, which is the most mature of the modern “wireless” commercial services, cannot afford to cover these areas, the new digital providers with even more expensive infrastructure are certainly not going to leap into a speedy buildout. Even the new FCC rules that require wide area licenses to cover a certain portion of the population within a few years will not help this situation since you can cover about 75% of our population by only covering about 20% of the geography. This would leave us in a worse predicament that we face today, with about 80% of land area not being serviced by commercial wireless providers.

I hope I have made the point, that we cannot rely on commercial services to provide wireless communications in the rural areas because we won't have any economy left by the time they finally get around to providing service in the rural areas.

If the FCC does not grant additional spectrum to private and shared-private wireless licensees it will have a severe negative impact on the business and economic future of Western South Dakota. I would strongly recommend that the FCC grant addition spectrum to shared-private licensees and do so as quickly as possible.

Not too many years ago, we would go the FCC for help in addressing communications problems that slowed our business growth. I am sad to say that the perception today is that the FCC is more a part of the problem than a part of the solution. Please make a positive change in this trend by allocating more spectrum to private and shared-private radio system.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.



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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael A. Lees'.

Michael A. Lees
President

cc:

Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Tim Johnson
Congressman John Thune

Federal Communications Commission
Secretary of the FCC, Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 27, 1998

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Subject: RM 9267

Dear Sirs:

I am a licensed Amateur radio operator, W0AJ, and I am writing to express my strong objection to the subject petition, RM 9267. I just recently learned about your hearing schedule, so I hope you will register my objections - I hope my letter arrives before June 1.

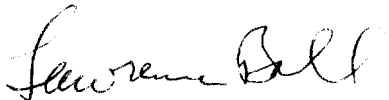
The portions of the UHF amateur band which are proposed for reallocation are extremely important for many frequently used amateur activities. I am very active in ARES and RACES, and have completed a three-year term as the Emergency Coordinator for District 3 in Western Colorado. A very specific application here is to supplement the communications needs for our public emergency services, including the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, BLM, Forest Service, and EMS. All of these use VHF frequencies, and during emergency exercises, the radio frequency saturation is significant; however, the amateurs have been successful in using the UHF band to communicate for these agencies under saturation conditions.

We have a number of UHF repeaters which work into wide area networks through out the southwest of the U.S., eg., the Cactus Intertie. Amateurs have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on systems such as this to provide very high quality communications, and much of this is available without commercial power for emergency conditions.

These are just two examples of how important this band is to the Radio Amateur service, and the kind of financial investment that has been made. The subject petition would be a TOTAL DISASTER TO THESE IMPORTANT CAPABILITIES.

I most urgently request the Commission to DENY the reallocation of the amateur UHF band portions.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Ball
W0AJ

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Town: HURST, Texas
May 18, 1998

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Ref: RM 9267

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Secretary, FCC
Washington, DC 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir,

As I look at the vast "Radio Spectrum" I only see very small dots designated for Amateur Radio use. Surely, this minimal group of frequencies cannot mean that much to any organization other than the public citizens of America. Amateur Radio has been the largest group of volunteers to pioneer the use of this radio spectrum, not only in technical development, but also in training a "ready group" of semi-professional operators.

The (450mhz) 70cm band of Amateur Radio is the second most popular band of frequencies, saturated with simplex and repeater connections, linking the Gulf Coast of Texas to/thru Austin to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and on to West Texas. Any tampering with the allocations of these frequencies will certainly jeopardize the Public Service that can and has been rendered in time of Gulf Coast Hurricanes and local 'weather watches' in conjunction with the National Weather Service for the Tornado Warning System.

Any one replacing the use of these frequencies must be responsible for a complete reimbursement to each Amateur Radio Operator for his/her replacement of equipment for other frequencies, and assume the responsibility to organize a complete Weather Warning System as it is now organized by Amateur Radio.

I would like to go on record as being bitterly opposed to any tampering with these frequencies now and any time in the future.

Name: HUBERT R. KING
Call: AA5NR
Address: 716 PINE ST.
Town, State, and zip HURST, TX 76053

I am a member of the Hurst Amateur Radio Club, who operates the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service in conjunction with the City of Hurst and Tarrant County.

Signed: Hubert R. King

c: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison,
284 Russell Sen. Off. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-4304

Congresswoman Kay Granger,
100 E. 15th St. Suite 500
Ft. Worth, TX 761002

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To the Secretary ~~DOCKET~~ FILE COPY ORIGINAL May 28, 1998

Re: RM 9267

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JDE

As a general class amateur radio operator, I encourage you not to allocate the 420-430 and 440-450 MHz frequencies to the Land Mobile Communications Council for their primary use! I use them!

Marilyn Mertz KB3BYD
1317 W. Phila. Ave, Boyertown, PA 19512

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FCC MAIL ROOM
MAY 27, 1998

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RM-9267
SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M ST., NW
WASHINGTON, DC.
20554

SECRETARY:

THE TIOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FROM WELLSBORO, PA. HAS
READ THE THREAT TO OUR AMATEUR RADIO BANDS, AND IS HEARBY
OBJECTING TO ANY MORE SELLING OF OUR AMATEUR ALLOCATIONS TO
COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

WE ASK THAT YOUR COMMISSION VOTE AGAINST **RM-9267**.
A LIST OF OUR MEMBERS IS INCLUDED.
OUR CLUB IS INVOLVED IN MANY ACTIVITIES THAT USE THESE BAND
ALLOCATIONS.

WE USE SATELLITE, PACKET, REPEATERS, ETC. SO THE 70-CM IS VERY
IMPORTANT TO OUR CLUB.

THANK YOU

SINCERELY YOURS,

TIOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MRS. KRYDER RAHN, SECRETARY

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Records

ANTONIO, JOHN J.
P.O.BOX 101
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-W3UAQ
(717)724-1475
ARRL-YES
category1

BOCHUS, JOHN
RR # 5 BOX 311
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3XJH
(717)724-4641
ARRL-NO

BORZOK, BOB
RR # 3 BOX 212
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3NWF
(717)724-4328
ARRL-YES
category1

BROWN (LIFE), ARLENE
RR # 2 BOX 187
MILLERTON PA 16936
CALL-WB3GQC
537-2730
ARRL-
category1

BUCKINGHAM, WILLIAM
P.O.BOX 1134
OSCEOLA PA 16942
CALL-WE3L
(814)258-7651
ARRL-

CLEVELAND, PEG
RR # 2 BOX 255
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KD3NY
(717)724-3293
ARRL-YES
category1

COPLEY, KELLY J.
RR # 1 BOX 200C
COVINGTON PA 16917
CALL-N3HSY
(717)659-5383
ARRL-

AUSTIN, ELWOOD
RR # 6 BOX 370
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA3MMM
(717)724-5738
ARRL-YES
category1

BOCKUS, JAMES R.
RR # BOX 19 BODINE ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3NED
(717)724-3894
ARRL-NO
category1

BROOK, DEREK
RR # 2 BOX 324
MIDDLEBURY CENTER PA 16935
CALL-KD3GZ
376-2443
ARRL-YES

BROWN (LIFE), LARRY
RR # 2 BOX 187
MILLERTON PA 16936
CALL-WA3CSP
537-2730
ARRL-
category1

CLEVELAND, PAULA
RR # 2 BOX 255
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3PDD
ARRL-YES
category1

CLEVELAND, RALPH
RR # 2 BOX 255
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KD3NU
(717)724-3293
ARRL-YES
category1

CRAWFORD, DEBORAH
RR # 5 BOX 113
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3FVQ
(717)724-7012
ARRL-YES
category1

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CRAWFORD, GERALD
RR # 5 BOX 113
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3FVP
(717)724-7012
ARRL-YES
category1

DEAN, COREY
RR # 6 BOX 200
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3GZW
ARRL-
category1

DOAN, DUANE A.
R.D. # 1 BOX 905
KNOXVILLE PA 16928
CALL-K3QHJ
(814)326-4401
ARRL-
category1

ELLIOT, DAROLD L.
BOX 116
OSCEOLA PA 16942
CALL-N3JWH
(814)258-5943
ARRL-YES
category1

ERTL, CHARLOTTE
141 HILLS CREEK DR.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3VHA
(717)724-7603
ARRL-
category1

ERTL, ROBIN
141 HILLS CREEK DR.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KK5SS
ARRL
category1

EVANS, JEFF
P.O. BOX 52
MANSFIELD PA 19633
CALL-N3WFD
(717)662-7040
ARRL-YES

DALTON, JR., ROBERT
7 PURPLE ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KE3KI
(717)724-2115
ARRL-YES

DOAN, BETTY
RD BOX 905
KNOXVILLE PA 16928
category1

DOAN, LOREN
P.O. BOX 39
NELSON PA 16940
CALL-N3OTN
(717)827-2214
ARRL-YES

ELLIS, FRANK L.
RR # 4 BOX 104
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA3KUT
(717)724-2149
ARRL-NO
category1

ERTL, CHRISTOPHER T.
30 CENTRAL AVE.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N2MNK
(717)724-6523
ARRL-YES
category1

ERTL, TIMOTHY P.
30 CENTRAL AVE.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KE3HT
(717)724-6523
ARRL-YES
category1

FERRY, BOYD
RR # 5 BOX 310
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-NQ3O
(717)724-2559
ARRL-YES
category1

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FINESTONE, CELIA
RR # 6 BOX 167
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-NO CALL
(717) 724-7781
ARRL-

FINESTONE, STEVE
RR # 6 BOX 167
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-WE3M
(717) 724-7781
ARRL-NO

FINNEY, WILLIAM
P.O. BOX 115
MANSFIELD PA 19633
CALL-N3WWW
ARRL=

FOSTER, EARL
RR # 2 BOX 116
GILLET PA 16925
CALL-W3BKF
NO PHONE
category1

GARDNER, VERN
RR#2 BOX 252-B
MIDDLEBURY CTR. PA 16935
CALL-N3OTO
(717) 376-2346
ARRL-NO
category1

GASTROCK, STEVE
RR # 4 BOX 16
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA3SWH

GOEBEL, CHARLES
BOX 716 RR # 4
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-N3UGF
(814) 367-2974
ARRL-NO
category1

GOEBEL, EVE
BOX 716 RR # 4
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-N3WOX
(814) 367-2974
category1

GONTARZ, ADDA
50 MAIN STREET
LAWRENCEVILLE PA 16929
CALL-W3QBZ
(717) 827-2348
ARRL-YES
category1

GOODREAU, GARY A.
P.O. BOX 324
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3QNG
(717) 724-5433
ARRL-YES

HEMENWAY, PHIL
4A WINGATE ST
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA3VRW
(717) 724-5450
ARRL-YES
category1

HEYLER, GWEN
704 EAST MAIN ST.
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-KB3BRH
(814) 367-2986
ARRL-

HOAR, LEE
RR # 1 BOX 164
COVINGTON PA 16917
CALL-N3BWB
(717) 659-5256
ARRL-YES
category1

HOWEY, DALE
66 AMERICAN ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-WB3DLN
(717) 724-4484
ARRL-YES-LIFE
category1

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HOWEY, JOYCE
66 AMERICAN ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA2VSR
(717)724-4484
ARRL-NO
category1

JOHNSON, GILBERT L.
RR # 2 BOX 2317
MANSFIELD PA 16901
CALL-WE3N
(717)662-7531
ARRL-NO

KERESTES, RICK
27 CONWAY ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3KVT
(717)724-6888
ARRL-
category1

KIMBLE, DONALD
RR # 1 BOX 58C
MILLERTON PA 16936
CALL-AE3Z
ARRL-YES

KINNAN, BARBARA
RR #2 BOX 212-A
MIDDLEBURY CTR. PA 16935
CALL-N3TKW
(717)376-2116
ARRL-

KOEHLER, CARRIE
RR # 4 BOX 569
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-
(
ARRL-

KOEHLER, ROY
2751 CANFIELD RD
COHOCTON NY 14826
CALL-KB2WXV
(607)324-2176
ARRL-

HOWEY-THOMAS, JO
68 CENTRAL AVE.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA3SCF
(717)724-7612
ARRL-

KARSTETLER, DEAN
RR # 2 BOX 93-B
LOGANTON PA 17747
CALL-N3NCD
(717)725-3991
ARRL-

KILDUFF, JIM
RR # 3 BOX 245
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-AA3JR
724-7256
ARRL-YES

KIMBLE, MARILYN
RR # 1 BOX 58C
MILLERTON PA 16936
CALL-KA3SAS
ARRL-

KINNAN, RICHARD W.
RR # 2 BOX 212-A
MIDDLEBURY CTR. PA 16935
CALL-AA3HI
(717)376-2116
ARRL-YES

KOEHLER, DEBORAH
2751 CANFIELD RD
COHOCTON NY 14826
CALL-KB2WEY
(607)324-2175
ARRL-

KULIK, PAUL
13 MORGAN TERRACE
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3GHQ
(717)724-1737
ARRL-YES
category1

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LEARN, DERWOOD
13 1/2 PEARL ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-WB3DKZ
(717)724-5613
ARRL-YES
category1

NETTING, EDWARD
R.R. # 1 BOX 179
TROY PA 16947
CALL-KE3OY
ARRL-
category1

NIXON, SUSAN
RR # 4 BOX 168
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-N3XRC
category1

PLIMPTON, WILLIAM
RR # 6 BOX 264
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-W2IXH
(717)724-3573
ARRL-NO
category1

RAHN, KRYDER
RR # 6 BOX 200
WELLSBORO PA 16901-8972
NO CALL
(717)724-3179
ARRL-NO
category1

REINERT, JR., LLOYD
3645 PRICETOWN RD.
FLEETWOOD PA 19522
CALL-WZ3V
1(610)944-9442
ARRL-YES
category1

ROOT, GREG
RR # 6 BOX 231
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3NXD
(717)724-6095
ARRL-
category1

MCCOY, WILLIAM
RR # 7 BOX 456
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-N3TKX
724-6978
ARRL-

NIXON, HOWARD
RR # 4 BOX 168
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-N3XJC
ARRL-
category1

OWENS, KONRAD
65 SMOKE RISE
MANSFIELD PA 16933
CALL-WA3RRS
(717)662-3038
ARRL-YES

RAHN, DARLENE
RR # 6 BOX 200
WELLSBORO PA 16901-8972
CALL-WO3C
(717)724-3179
ARRL-YES
category1

REILLY, BILL
RR # 4 BOX 103
WELLSBORO PA 16901
NO CALL
(717)724-1167
ARRL-NO
category1

REPPERT, JOSEPH
BOX 538 RR # 2
LENHARTSVILLE PA 19534
CALL-WY3T
ARRL-YES
category1

SCHAEFFER, JO ANN
RR # 2 BOX 538
LENHARTSVILLE PA 19534
CALL-N3JRX
category1

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SHULTZ, DAVID
RR # 1 BOX 59
MORRIS PA 16938
CALL-N3NXC
(717)353-2045
ARRL-YES
category1

SUHR, FREDERICK L.
P.O. BOX 545 5 CALKINS LANE
WELLSBORO PA 16901-0545
CALL-N3VGY
(717)724-3179
ARRL-
category1

WEAVER, PHILLIP
BOX 147
KNOXVILLE PA 16928
CALL-N3PDW
(717)326-4289
ARRL-
category1

WILSON, MICHAEL D.
RR # 2 BOX 237
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-NM30
(717)724-5178
ARRL-YES
category1

WINCEY, CHRIS
RR # 1
MORRIS PA 16938
CALL-N1KBR
(717)353-2404

WINKLER(LIFE), JOY
RR # 2 BOX 267
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-KA3FEW
(717)724-3102
ARRL-NO
category1

LOVEKAMP, VICKI
RR # 3 BOX 162
CALL-N3RXU
(717)596-2390
ARRL-YES
category1

SKINNER, DOUGLAS
BOX 322
WESTFIELD PA 16950
CALL-N3YMP
ARRL-
category1

WEAVER, BRUCE
BOX 147
KNOXVILLE PA 16928
CALL-N3LTM
(717)326-4289
ARRL-YES
category1

WILCOX, JOHN
35 KELSEY ST.
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-NO3R
(717)724-3774
ARRL-YES
category1

WIMBROUGH, LENORE
RR # 1 BOX 463
MANSFIELD PA 16933
CALL-WB3DLK
(717)724-4222
ARRL-

WINKLER(LIFE), JOHN
RR # 2 BOX 267
WELLSBORO PA 16901
CALL-WB3GPY
(717)724-3102
ARRL-YES
category1

LOVEKAMP, PAUL
RR # 3 BOX 162
CALL-KE3LR
(717)596-2390
ARRL-YES
category1